Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Read all about ants and then answer the questions on the next page.

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| **Ants  By Erin Horner** |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

1. What's red and white and black all over? A red and white picnic table covered with ants! Have you ever seen an ant? I'm sure you have. The world is full of ants! Scientists have identified more than 12,000 different ant species. These tiny insects can live almost anywhere. They can't, however, live in Antarctica. It is too cold for them there. Ants are very social. They live and work together in colonies. Ants are also very strong. They can lift more than twenty times their body weight. If a fourth grader could do this, he would be able to lift 1,400 pounds! Ants by themselves are not very smart. But when they work together as a colony they sure are. This is known as "swarm intelligence." Maybe that explains why one ant by himself wanders around a picnic table. A large group of ants, on the other hand, make a bee (or ant!) line straight for the desserts!  
     
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| Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif | Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Ants**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1. | Where can ants live? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 2. | The author probably wrote this passage to \_\_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Persuade you to go on a picnic http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Demonstrate the best way to get rid of ants http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Describe Antarctica's weather http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Inform you about ants | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 3. | Which of the following about ants is true? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Ants love the cold. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Ants by themselves are very smart. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Ants are very strong. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  There are very few ant species. | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 4. | What can the reader conclude about ants after reading this passage? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Ants in a group have a hard time working together. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Picnics are not fun. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  It would be easy to see every ant species. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Scientists will probably not find a new ant species in a really cold location. | |

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**Ants**

**Imagine that you recently discovered a new ant species. Name your new ant and draw a picture of it. What makes your newly discovered ant unique?**  
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| **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Ants  By Erin Horner** |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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**Directions:**  Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.  
  
     What's red and white and black all over? A red and white picnic table covered with ants! Have you ever seen an ant? I'm *(1)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   you have. The *(2)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   is full of ants! Scientists have identified more than 12,000 *(3)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   ant *(4)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . These tiny insects can live almost anywhere. They can't, *(5)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  , live in Antarctica. It is too cold for them there. Ants are very *(6)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . They live and work together in *(7)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . Ants are *(8)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   very strong. They can lift more than twenty times their *(9)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   weight. If a fourth grader could do this, he would be able to *(10)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   1,400 *(11)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ! Ants by themselves are not very smart. But when they work together as a *(12)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   they sure are. This is known as "*(13)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   intelligence." Maybe that explains why one ant by himself wanders around a picnic table. A *(14)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   *(15)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of ants, on the other hand, make a bee (or ant!) line *(16)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   for the desserts!

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| **Ants By Erin Horner** |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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| **Answer Key** |

     What's red and white and black all over? A red and white picnic table covered with ants! Have you ever seen an ant? I'm ***(1)*  sure** you have. The ***(2)*  world** is full of ants! Scientists have identified more than 12,000 ***(3)*  different** ant ***(4)*  species**. These tiny insects can live almost anywhere. They can't, ***(5)*  however**, live in Antarctica. It is too cold for them there. Ants are very ***(6)*  social**. They live and work together in ***(7)*  colonies**. Ants are ***(8)*  also** very strong. They can lift more than twenty times their ***(9)*  body** weight. If a fourth grader could do this, he would be able to ***(10)*  lift** 1,400 ***(11)*  pounds**! Ants by themselves are not very smart. But when they work together as a ***(12)*  colony** they sure are. This is known as "***(13)*  swarm** intelligence." Maybe that explains why one ant by himself wanders around a picnic table. A ***(14)*  large** ***(15)*  group** of ants, on the other hand, make a bee (or ant!) line ***(16)*  straight** for the desserts!

Answers to Reading Comprehension Questions  
  
**1**  Almost anywhere, except Antarctica.  
**2**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Inform you about ants  
**3**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Ants are very strong.  
**4**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Scientists will probably not find a new ant species in a really cold location.